

CITIES OF OREM AND PROVO
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
56 North State Street, Orem, Utah
April 14, 2016

This meeting was for discussion purposes only. No action was taken.

CONDUCTING	Mayor Richard F. Brunst, Jr.
OREM ELECTED OFFICIALS	Mayor Richard F. Brunst, Jr. and Councilmembers Debby Lauret, Sam Lentz, and Brent Sumner
PROVO ELECTED OFFICIALS	Councilmembers Dave Harding, Dave Knecht, Kim Santiago, Dave Sewell, and George Stewart
OREM STAFF	Jamie Davidson, City Manager; Brenn Bybee, Assistant City Manager; Steven Downs, Assistant to the City Manager; and Jackie Lambert, Deputy City Recorder
PROVO STAFF	Wayne Parker, Chief Administrative Officer; Cory Norman, Deputy Mayor; Bryce Mumford, Policy Analyst; and Karen Tapahe, Neighborhood Program Coordinator
EXCUSED	Councilmembers Tom Macdonald, Mark Seastrand, and David Spencer

Call to Order

Mayor Brunst called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Items of Common Interest

Balance of Housing Distribution

This was a continued discussion from the Joint Orem/Provo City Council meeting held February 11, 2016. Ms. Santiago spoke of a map showing concentrations of student populations in the Orem/Provo area, and said some areas were struggling because of higher concentrations of free and reduced lunches that needed to be provided. She said they also had heard from “anchor families” in those areas that did not feel supported and wanted more even distribution to relieve overwhelmed areas. She spoke of recent higher-density developments in Orem and Provo and said they should consider the distribution in those projects.

Mayor Brunst said the Orem projects she was referring to were not low-income housing projects. Ms. Santiago said some of the projects in Provo were low-income, and there would be further development into the future. She thought it would be valuable for both cities to consider the issues of balance.

Mr. Lentz said one way to help make housing more affordable was to make transportation more affordable. He thought design principles could be implemented to help with issues of balance.

Mayor Brunst agreed that it was an issue that needed to be addressed, and said he thought this was the kind of long-term problem that needed to be addressed at the County level. Ms. Santiago said that was true, and they were planning to organize a committee with representatives from the different entities involved to discuss possible solutions to meet the needs of the people.

Mr. Davidson said he appreciated the fact that this was a regional concern. He felt most cities in the valley would say they had enough low- to moderate-income housing, but there were also Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines that needed to be met. Ms. Santiago said HUD would be an important group to coordinate with to better distribute low- and moderate-income housing projects throughout the valley.

Mr. Knecht said with the housing market inflated the way it was people were more likely to move to areas of higher concentration. He said a healthy community would have options for low-income families as well as affordable housing for young professionals and empty nesters that wanted amenitized apartment-style housing.

Mr. Sumner said Orem had over 2,000 apartments coming online that were higher range apartments and he was finding that the rents for older units were also being driven up because of the demand for affordable housing.

Provo/Orem TRIP Lease Agreement

Mr. Davidson gave an update on the Provo/Orem TRIP (Transportation Improvement Project) Lease Agreement. He said Orem had met with UTA for the go-forward plan, which was to adopt an interlocal agreement between Orem, Provo, Utah County, UTA, and MAG as well as enter into a lease agreement with UTA. He said he had spoken with Steve Earl, Deputy City Attorney, about modifications to that lease agreement that reflected some of Provo's stipulations and felt they had reached a good common ground. He said the goal was to bring the item forward for the Council's consideration on April 26, 2016.

Trampoline Gyms

Ms. Santiago said the trauma surgeons from the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center (UVRMC) in Provo had reached out about the severe injuries they were seeing from people at trampoline gyms. She said they only saw the most major of injuries but were concerned about the trends they were seeing. Trampoline gyms had little if any regulation and some said their policies were formed by trial and error. She said a group of surgeons, attorneys, and representatives from the Board of Health were planning to meet to set a standard of rules that trampoline gyms would be subject to. Ms. Santiago said this was a statewide issue that should be addressed in the legislature, but as the legislative session was completed for the year it was important to get regulations in place before then. She said the surgeons did not want to shut down trampoline gyms, but it was tough for them to see these dramatic injuries that were life-altering for mostly young victims so they were seeking more regulations.

Mr. Stewart asked what the main causes of injury were. Ms. Santiago said sometimes it was falling from the height of the platform structures and landing incorrectly. Most of the climbing walls had no harnesses, and often the injuries were caused by a larger person falling into a smaller person below.

Mr. Lentz asked if they had yet reached out to owners of trampoline gyms and how they felt

about this. Ms. Santiago said the majority were in favor, though they had experienced some pushback. She said they wanted consensus between all groups and to draft legislation that would make the most sense for all parties.

Mr. Knecht said his son worked at a trampoline gym and one of the issues he talked about was having regular trampolines and professional trampolines that were side by side. Most people did not know the difference and so they used both. To use a professional trampoline typically required some training but even when employees were certified, they were not certified to train others.

UVU student Bradley Thomas said putting too many regulations in place would keep people from wanting to go to trampoline gyms, especially for those that were trained and had experience on the equipment.

Mr. Harding said crafting the regulations would be a tight needle to thread between experienced and not-experienced participants. Waivers were so common place that people usually did not read them before signing, but the point of a waiver was to make people aware of the injuries that could occur and help them better understand the risks. Signage also had its place to keep safety regulations on people's minds. He thought informing people about serious injuries that happened at one trampoline gym or another could also make the companies self-regulate for best safety practices, as they would not want to be known as a gym that had seen more serious injuries than another.

Ms. Santiago said there were some regulations currently in place regarding taller platforms, and most gyms kept records of any injury whether it was serious or minor. Most gyms had spotters and their employees were first aid and CPR certified, but that training was insufficient for the more serious injuries that could happen. The Board of Health recommended having a trained EMT on-site full time; the issue there was that an EMT would not want to work full time at a trampoline gym.

Mr. Lentz asked about competing business types like sports gyms and pools/water parks, and whether trampoline gyms may feel their regulations unfair in comparison. Ms. Santiago said trauma surgeons were not seeing the level of injury from competing businesses that they were seeing from trampoline gyms. They compared injuries from trampoline gyms to those involved in ATV accidents, and similar major injuries at these other facilities were few and far between.

Ms. Santiago said tracking the data was difficult because people did not check in at hospitals by saying where they got their injuries but the nature of the injury was what they recorded. That would be another aspect of the legislation they hoped to craft, so they would have a better database to refer to. She invited Orem to be a part of the conversation about these regulations moving forward. Mayor Brunst said that would be a good idea.

Orem NIA Program

Provo councilmembers invited Orem to give an update on their Neighborhoods in Action (NIA) program. Mr. Downs said Orem was not separated into districts but into neighborhoods, typically tied closely with elementary schools and LDS stake boundaries. He said neighborhood chair positions were getting harder and harder to fill for various reasons, and they were looking for better ways to engage in neighborhoods to help residents take ownership of their community. He

said the annual Spring Clean-Up program had been adjusted this year to be more like Provo's same program, with dumpsters available to all residents throughout the clean-up time period.

Mr. Harding said they had held a neighborhood chair symposium the previous week where they were able to fill all of their neighborhood chair positions, approximately 34 positions. Mr. Stewart said a fair number of councilmembers had previously been neighborhood chairs.

Mr. Downs asked about the activity level of the neighborhood chairs. Mr. Harding said some of that was dependent on their personal level of interest and engagement. Some chairs had monthly meetings and organized their own neighborhood clean-ups, while others might only meet yearly.

Mr. Davidson said that was similar to what Orem was seeing. He asked how they maintained active chairs long-term, especially during transitional times from one chair to another. He asked how they maintained consistency across neighborhoods.

Mr. Harding suggested giving chairs real responsibilities and letting them know that the City would listen to them. He said there were training programs neighborhood chairs could participate in that would help empower them, and help motivate their neighbors to engage more. Provo had a matching grant program to help neighborhoods fund their projects and programs. He said neighborhoods that were worried about "losing their neighborhood" seemed to be the most active. When neighbors worked together on something they believed in, they came together and were more tight-knit.

Provo High School

Mr. Parker said the Provo School District had been in negotiations to sell Provo High, and there was a groundbreaking for the new school on Lakeshore Drive the next week. They were moving forward under the assumption they could sell the old property at market value. Thus far they had some interested buyers but no outcome yet. He said it was zoned for public facilities currently but was likely subject to a rezone.

2016 Water Laws and Water Infrastructure

Mr. Parker said there were changes in water laws that had come from the recent legislative session. One of the new State requirements was a tiered fee structure for water, and conservation standards. He said Provo had summer rates and winter rates, but did not have a tiered system currently. They needed to review their fees to be compliant with the State.

Mr. Davidson asked if the summer bump to the rates was the first gallon usage, and Mr. Parker said it was. Mr. Davidson asked if they had considered an automated metering infrastructure (AMI) system. Mr. Parker said they had, and they were about 70 percent of the way through upgrading their meters, which had been a four or five year process.

Mr. Seastrand asked what they thought about using AMI. Mr. Parker said the website had been helpful especially to staff who could contact consumers about spikes in their usage. AMI showed different data than the old meter system, which showed a bump in consumption. It was a more accurate reading, and using AMI had improved customer relations.

Mr. Seastrand asked about Provo building water storage tanks. Mr. Parker said they were building two, which, between them, would hold 10 million gallons. The one currently being built

would hold 4 million gallons. That would give them 42 million gallons total water storage in the city. They were primarily designed to improve flows to the west side of the city. Mayor Brunst said Orem was looking at these same issues.

Mr. Parker asked about charging a sewer rate per door, since Orem had recently changed to that fee structure. Mr. Davidson said it was a fairness issue for everyone to be on equal footing before moving forward in the future with additional rate increases when necessary. He said there had been a disproportional benefit to apartment complexes before, and single-family homes had been subsidizing apartment complexes for waste water. He said there had been some pushback, but the majority understood why this was a better way. Orem had engaged in a significant outreach effort before moving forward, and there had been an element of compromise on a lesser fee attached to subsequent units in a given complex. He said in the end the change would net \$800,000 in revenue to dedicate to capital improvement projects to the infrastructure.

Mr. Lentz said one frustration in the process had been negative feedback from apartment dwellers whose landlords were misleading them on what was happening. He clarified that this had not been a problem across the board, but it was important for the City to provide clear information on how it would affect the sewer bill and let both tenants and landlords know.

Mr. Davidson said some landlords took the opportunity to increase their rents, but the City did their best to let residents know of the reasons behind the changes. Mr. Downs said he would share some of Orem's information with Provo regarding the outreach efforts.

Orem Summerfest and Jimmer Fredette All-Together Shootout

Mr. Downs gave an update about Orem's Summerfest celebration, and the 3-pointer Shootout with Summerfest Grand Marshall Jimmer Fredette. He said June 10, 2016, Jimmer Fredette would kick off the Summerfest by shooting 100 3-pointers at Orem High School. The event was a fundraiser for the All-Together Playground, with people pledging a certain amount for each 3-pointer that was made. Mr. Downs said the Fredette Family Foundation was excited about the playground and reached out for the opportunity to contribute. He said people could go to Orem High School to watch the shootout, or could stream the event live.

Set Date and Time for Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for July 14, 2016, at noon in Provo.

Mr. Sumner **moved** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Seastrand **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed unanimously**.

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Donna R. Weaver, City Recorder

Approved: May 24, 2016